REMARKS

Claims 1 - 10 are pending. Applicants amend claim 1 and 5. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found in Applicants' specification, for example, at page 8, lines 28 – 34 and page 11, lines 1 – 30.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO PRIORITY CLAIM

As the priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document (JP Patent Publication No. 2000-186275) are not explicitly acknowledged in the Office Action of February 9, 2005, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a formal acknowledgement as to the priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Office Communication in regard to the present application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,708,703 to Nagaraj. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,849 to Yamashita et al. and U.S. patent No. 4,334,312 to Yoshida. Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj in view of Yamashita, Yoshida and U.S. Patent No. 6,438,185 to Huttunen. Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 5 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicant discloses:

> 1. A method used in equalization processing, comprising the steps of:
>
> extracting, on the basis of a receive signal received from a transmission line, information on fluctuation of transmission line characteristics which fluctuate

periodically according to an on-off state of a switching element in an apparatus that is connected to the transmission line on the basis of a receive signal; and

performing equalization processing while switching equalization characteristics in accordance with said fluctuation of transmission line characteristics.

Nagaraj discloses an automatic line equalizer that provides separate equalizing means for an input line falling into one of multiple line lengths (see, e.g., abstract of Nagaraj). The equalizer includes a first equalizer for a first line length range, a second equalizer for a second line length range, and a line condition/length detector and switch means for selecting one of the first and second equalizers according to a line condition/length (see, e.g., FIG. 3 of Nagaraj). The line condition/length detector and switch means is configured to prevent a condition of "hunting" or oscillation between the two equalizers (see, e.g., column 5, lines 41 – 65 of Nagaraj).

In sharp contrast, according to Applicants' invention as claimed in amended independent claim 1, a method of equalization processing is disclosed in which fluctuations in transmission line characteristics that are a function of fluctuations in the on-off states of a switching element that is connected to the transmission line are used to control the switching of equalization characteristics used in equalization processing (see, e.g., page 11, lines 1 – 30 of Applicants' specification). In Applicants' invention, the switching element fluctuations are extracted from a receive signal transmitted on the transmission line.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nagaraj fails to suggest or disclose Applicants' claimed equalizer for which equalization characteristics are switched in accordance with a fluctuation of transmission line characteristics caused by the switching of an on-off element in a switching element that is connected to the transmission line. In fact, Nagaraj teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention by disclosing a line condition/length detector and switch means that are configured to prevent a condition of "hunting", or oscillation. In other words, in sharp

contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Nagaraj teaches changing equalization characteristics only in response to a change in line length. By eliminating all other sources (including induced oscillations) for controlling equalization characteristics, Nagaraj certainly teaches away from Applicants' claimed method employing switching equalization characteristics in accordance with a fluctuation of transmission line characteristics caused by the switching of an on-off element in a switching element that is connected to the transmission line

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Nagaraj, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As amended independent claim 5 includes limitations that are substantially similar to the limitations discussed above in regard to claim 1, Applicants further submit that amended independent claim 5 is also allowable. As dependent claims 2 – 4 and 7 - 10 each depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 5, Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2 – 4 and 7 - 10 are also allowable at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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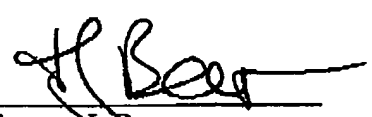

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